

## 4.5 Christian Milestones



# Christian Milestones



✧ The Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches both celebrate 7 sacraments to mark the passage of life:

# 1. Baptism



Baptism

Cleanses the soul of original sin and signals the beginning of the Christian life

Jesus also instructed the apostles to go and baptize all nations “in the name of the father, son, and the holy spirit”



# 1. Baptism



These same words are repeated in most Christian baptisms

Baptism reclaims the soul for God by entering the person into the salvation of Christ's death and resurrection

Baptism



# Baptism



✧ Most Christian denominations practice infant baptism, although could be adolescence or adulthood.



Involves anointing candidate with oil, pouring water over forehead.

Eastern Orthodox immerses infant in water. Baptist Churches also immerse adults in a pool of water.

## 2. Holy Communion



Sharing a meal is an important rite in many world religions

Most Christian Churches celebrate the Last supper

The supper table has now been replaced with an altar and the meal was replaced by bread (host) and the wine



## 2. Holy Communion



The Early Churches taught that through the words spoken by the priest, the body and blood of Jesus actually become present in the sacramental meal

This is the doctrine of **transubstantiation**





## 2. Holy Communion



Transubstantiation is the belief that the bread and wine undergoes a change in substance, though not in physical appearance or chemical composition



# 3. Confession or Reconciliation



By this sacrament Christians are freed from sins committed after Baptism

Orthodox and Catholic Churches, some Protestant, discuss their sins and struggles with priest/minister



# Confession/ Reconciliation

---





# 4. Confirmation



Attaining full participation in the church as a young adult

Sponsors come forward with a young person in preparation of becoming a full member of the church



# 4. Confirmation



Candidate is anointed with holy oil, accompanied by the laying on of hands by bishop.

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ



# 5. Ordination



Extensive education and training at religious colleges

Life as a cleric in a church (priest, pastor, bishop)



# Ordination



✧ Extensive education necessary to prepare candidates for a life as a cleric.

✧ Typically 4 year undergrad degree + 4 years in seminary.

✧ Those called to do God's work are filled with Holy Spirit.

# 6. Matrimony



Jesus highlighted that marriage is a lasting bond before God

“So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate”  
(Matthew 19: 5-6)



# 6. Matrimony



Priest/Minister  
functions on two levels

Civil and Religious,  
combining Christ and  
the law



# Matrimony

❧ Sacred vow made in front of witnesses by a couple who promise to be faithful to one another.

❧ In Catholicism, marriage cannot be dissolved except under extenuating circumstances (cannot conceive children, abuse).

# 7. Anointing of the Sick/Dying



Jesus healed the sick through prayer and the laying on of hands

This practice continues today in many Christian Churches

The priest holds the patient's hand, at the same time anointing the patient's forehead with holy oil



# 7. Anointing of the Sick/Dying



Prayers are said and if able, communion is given to the sick/dying

This special Communion prepares us to travel with the Lord on the final part of our journey.

Last time sins are forgiven, opening the gates of heaven

